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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
Fifty-sixth session
Geneva, 6-24 March 2000

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The fifty-sixth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will be held at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 6 to 24 March 2000. The first meeting of the session will be convened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 6 March. The last meeting will be convened at 3 p.m. on Friday, 24 March.

2. This document contains the provisional agenda for the session prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure, together with annotations relating thereto.

3. The attention of States parties is drawn, in particular, to the tentative timetable for consideration of reports and further information submitted by States parties and for consideration of States parties whose reports are seriously overdue pursuant to the review procedure.

4. In accordance with rule 64 of the rules of procedure, the representatives of the States parties are invited to be present at the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee under rule 14 of the rules of procedure.

2. Approval by the Committee of the expert appointed by a State party to fill a casual vacancy

3. Election of officers.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters.

6. Prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning measures and urgent action procedures.

7. Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention.

8. Submission of reports by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

9. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session:

(a) Annual report submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention;

(b) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights;

10. Consideration of communications under article 14 of the Convention.

11. Consideration of copies of petitions, copies of reports and other information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to all other territories in which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) applies, in conformity with article 15 of the Convention.

12. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee under rule 14 of the rules of procedure

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the nine members of the Committee elected or re-elected at the Eighteenth Meeting of the States parties to the Convention, held on 18 January 2000, will make the following solemn declaration:

"I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

2. Approval by the Committee of the expert appointed by a State party to fill a casual vacancy

In accordance with rule 13, paragraph 1 of its rules of procedure, the representative of the Secretary-General will submit to the Committee, for approval by secret ballot, the name of the expert appointed by Germany to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Mr. R. Wolfrum (Germany) from the Committee.

3. Election of officers

In accordance with article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention and rules 15 and 16 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect from among its members a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. The officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years.

Under rule 58 of the rules of procedure, elections shall be held by secret ballot, unless the Committee decides otherwise in the case of an election to fill a place for which there is only one candidate.

4. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda of any session shall be the adoption of the agenda. In accordance with rule 9, the Committee may revise the agenda during a session and may, as appropriate, add, defer or delete items.

5. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee will consider its programme of work for the fifty-sixth session. It will also undertake a general debate on issues of interest to the Committee.

6. Prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning measures and urgent action procedures

The Committee decided at its forty-fifth session to establish this as one of its regular and principal agenda items. Within the framework of its efforts to prevent racial discrimination, the Committee may decide to take early warning measures aimed at preventing existing problems from escalating into conflicts; or it may decide to initiate urgent action procedures aimed at responding to problems requiring immediate attention to prevent or limit the scale or number of serious violations of the Convention. The Committee may also take action or further action regarding States parties already considered under this item.

The Committee may, at its discretion, schedule the consideration of the situation in some States parties at short notice.

7. Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention

At its fifty-sixth session, the Committee will consider periodic reports received from the following States parties: Australia, Bahrain, Denmark, Estonia, France, Ghana, Lesotho, Malta, Nepal, Rwanda, Spain, Tonga and Zimbabwe.

Pursuant to a decision taken at its fifty-fifth session, the Committee has scheduled, at its fifty-sixth session, a review of the implementation of the Convention in the following States parties that have previously submitted reports but from which periodic reports are seriously overdue: Bangladesh, Greece, Qatar and Viet Nam. In addition, the Committee has scheduled a review of the implementation in one State party, Slovenia, whose initial report is seriously overdue.

In pursuance of established practice and in conformity with rule 64 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their respective reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee. The scheduling of the Committee's consideration of reports submitted and review of the implementation of the Convention in the States parties whose reports are excessively overdue is set forth in the timetable below.

8. Submission of reports by States parties under article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention

At its fifty-sixth session, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General concerning the status of submission of reports by States parties in accordance with article 9 of the Convention (CERD/C/386). Part A of that document indicates reports received from States parties and pending consideration by the Committee. Part B of the document contains information relating to overdue reports.

9. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session

Following a request made by the Committee at its seventh session in 1973, this item is included yearly on the Committee's provisional agenda.

(a) Annual report submitted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention

Pursuant to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the annual report of the Committee, covering its activities during the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions, was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session. The Committee will have before it the report and relevant summary records of the Third Committee, as well as relevant General Assembly resolutions.

(b) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights

The Committee will have before it the advance version of the report on the eleventh meeting of the chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies.

10. Consideration of communications under article 14 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVIII of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are or appear to be submitted to it under article 14 of the Convention.

In accordance with rule 88 of the rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee during which communications under article 14 of the Convention are examined shall be closed.

11. Consideration of copies of petitions, copies of reports and other information relating to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to all other territories in which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) applies, in conformity with article 15 of the Convention

Under this item, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (CERD/C/387) concerning article 15 of the Convention and listing, as appropriate, copies of petitions, reports and working papers relating to the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

12. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

At its 695th meeting (thirtieth session) in August 1984, the Committee decided to keep this item on its agenda and requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the relevant activities which would be undertaken in accordance with the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, and subsequently the Programme of Action for the Third Decade.

The Committee discussed the World Conference at its 1302nd and 1303rd meetings (fifty-third session) in August 1998 and continued its discussion at its 1330th meeting (fifty-fourth session) in March 1999 and at its 1335th, 1368th and 1369th meetings (fifty-fifth session) in August 1999.

Tentative timetable for consideration of reports, comments and further information submitted by States parties and for consideration of States parties whose reports are seriously overdue pursuant to the review procedure

The following timetable has been drawn up by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman, taking into account the relevant decisions taken by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session.

Monday, 6 March 2000 (1373rd meeting)

France 1/ Twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports, due in 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/337/Add.5)

Tuesday, 7 March 2000 (1374th and 1375th meetings)

France (continued)

Viet Nam 2/

Zimbabwe 1/ Second, third and fourth periodic reports, due in 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/329/Add.1)

Wednesday, 8 March 2000 (1376th and 1377th meetings)

Zimbabwe (continued)

Tonga 1/ Fourteenth periodic report, due in 1999 (CERD/C/362/Add.3)

Denmark 1/ Fourteenth periodic report, due in 1999 (CERD/C/362/Add.1)

Thursday, 9 March 2000 (1378th and 1379th meetings)

Denmark (continued)

Bangladesh 2/

Malta 1/ Thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports, due in 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/337/Add.3)

Friday, 10 March 2000 (1380th and 1381st meetings)

Malta (continued)

Nepal 1/ Fourteenth periodic report, due in 1999 (CERD/C/362/Add.3)

Bahrain 1/ Initial, second, third, fourth and fifth periodic reports, due in 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999, submitted in one document (CERD/C/353/Add.1)

Monday, 13 March 2000 (1382nd and 1383rd meetings)

Nepal (continued)

Bahrain (continued)

Spain 1/ Fourteenth and fifteenth periodic reports, due in 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/338/Add.6)

Tuesday, 14 March 2000 (1384th and 1385th meetings)

Spain (continued)

Rwanda 1/ Eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth periodic reports, due in 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/335/Add.1)

Wednesday, 15 March 2000 (1386th and 1387th meetings)

Rwanda (continued)

Greece 2/

Estonia 1/ Initial, second, third and fourth periodic reports, due in 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/329/Add.2)

Friday, 17 March 2000 (1388th and 1389th meetings)

Estonia (continued)

Slovenia 2/

Lesotho 1/ Seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports, due in 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/337/Add.1)

Monday, 20 March 2000 (1390th and 1391st meetings)

Lesotho (continued)

Qatar 2/

Australia 1/ Tenth, eleventh and twelfth periodic reports, due in 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/335/Add.2)

Tuesday, 21 March 2000 (1392nd and 1393rd meetings)

Australia (continued)

Ghana 1/ Twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth periodic reports, due in 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998, submitted in one document (CERD/C/338/Add.5)

Wednesday, 22 March 2000 (1394th and 1395th meetings)

Ghana (continued)

Notes

1/ Periodic report.

2/ Review procedure (for States parties whose reports are seriously overdue).

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